

In The Claims

This listing of claims is the same as the previous version and is repeated herein without amendment.

1. (original) A granular delivery system comprising a flavor or fragrance ingredient or composition distributed as droplets throughout a matrix of polymeric carriers, wherein said carriers comprise at least a carbohydrate material and from 1 to 7% of prehydrated agar agar, relative to the dried weight of the granular system.
2. (original) A delivery system according to claim 1, wherein the carriers comprise from 1 to 3% of agar agar.
3. (original) A delivery system according to claim 1, wherein the carriers comprise from 1 to 1.5% of agar agar.
4. (original) A delivery system according to claim 1, wherein the flavor or fragrance ingredient or composition is hydrophobic.
5. (original) A delivery system according to claim 1, wherein the carbohydrate material is selected from the group consisting of a maltodextrin or corn syrup, a chemically modified starch, a hydrogenated starch hydrolysate or a succinylated or hydrolysed starch.
6. (original) A delivery system according to claim 1, wherein the carriers consist of maltodextrin in the form of a narrow cut of polymer chains and from 1 to 7% of agar agar.
7. (original) A delivery system according to claim 6, wherein the carriers consist of maltodextrin in the form of a narrow cut of polymer chains and from 1 to 3% of agar agar.
8. (original) A delivery system according to claim 5, wherein the polymeric carriers further comprise a sugar, selected from the group consisting of sucrose, glucose, lactose, maltose, fructose, isomalt, sorbitol, mannitol, xylitol, lactitol, maltitol, and hydrogenated corn syrup.

9. (original) A delivery system according to claim 5, wherein the maltodextrin has a dextrose equivalent equal to or above 18.

10. (original) A delivery system according to claim 1, wherein the flavor or fragrance ingredient or composition represents from 0.1 to 25% by weight relative to the dried granular system.

11. (original) A delivery system according to claim 1, wherein the flavor or fragrance ingredient or composition represents from 5 to 16% by weight relative to the dried granular system.

12. (original) Process for the preparation of a delivery system according to claim 1, comprising the following steps:

- (a) combining and blending a flavour or fragrance ingredient or composition with a matrix comprising an aqueous solution of at least a carbohydrate material, from 1 to 7% of prehydrated agar agar, and optionally an emulsifier, under temperature and stirring conditions useful to produce a uniform melt thereof;
- (b) extruding the uniform melt through a die;
- (c) chopping, cutting, grinding or pulverising the material obtained as it exits the die or after cooling the melt; and
- (d) optionally drying.

13. (original) Process according to claim 12, wherein the matrix consists of a hot carbohydrate melt of 4 to 12% moisture.

14. (original) Process according to claim 12, wherein step d) is followed by the mixing of the obtained particles with a free flow agent.

15. (previously amended) The delivery system according to claim 1, wherein the droplets release the flavor or fragrance ingredient or composition during use of the granular system.

16. (previously amended) The delivery system according to claim 15, wherein the granular system is present in a product selected from the group consisting of a chewing gum

or a soft chewy confection, an ice-cream, a biscuit, a pharmaceutical preparation, a toothpaste.

17. (previously amended) The delivery system according to claim 15, wherein the granular system is present in a product selected from the group consisting of a detergent, a fabric softener, a soap, a shower or bath gel, a shampoo or another hair-care product, a body lotion, a deodorant, and a home care cleaning product.